

Final

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operative for sensing encoded data on a first type of record carrier positioned near the first auto ID reader and for reading the encoded data;

c) a second auto ID reader supported by the support, said second auto ID reader operative for sensing encoded data on a second type of record carrier configured to contact a portion of said second auto ID reader, said second auto ID reader further operative for reading the encoded data; and

d) a radio frequency (RF) transceiver supported by the support, and operative for transmitting the data processed by said auto ID readers derived from the record carriers.

3. (Amended) The data collection module of claim 2, wherein the support includes a printed circuit board on which electrical circuit components for the RF transceiver are mounted.

4. (Amended) The data collection module of claim 1, wherein the RF transceiver includes a first antenna, a second antenna, and a selection circuit for coupling the transceiver.

5. (Amended) The data collection module of claim 1, wherein at least one auto ID reader is an interchangeable element that includes one of a bar code symbol reader, a smart card reader, a digital sensor, and a fingerprint detector.

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6. (Amended) The data collection module of claim 1, wherein the RF transceiver and at least one auto ID reader are supported within the predetermined form factor.

7. (Amended) The data collection module of claim 1, wherein the RF transceiver and the auto ID readers generate digital signals corresponding to RF demodulated data and the auto ID encoded data, respectively, and wherein the readers share a single IC for receiving and processing the digital signals.

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11. (Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the RF transceiver includes a first antenna, a second antenna, and a circuit for modulating and demodulating an RF signal.

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12. (Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein at least one auto ID reader includes a photodetector.

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13. (Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the RF transceiver and at least one of the first and second auto ID readers are supported within the predetermined form factor.

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14. (Amended) The data collection terminal of claim 8, wherein the RF transceiver and the auto ID readers generate digital signals corresponding to an RF signal and the auto ID encoded data respectively, and wherein the readers share a common

processing integrated circuit for receiving and processing the digital signals, and for outputting the processed signals through at least one common interface.

15. (Amended) A data collection method, comprising the steps of:

- a) supporting a radio frequency (RF) transceiver on a support having a predetermined form factor;
- b) supporting a first and a second auto ID reader on said support;
- c) sensing encoded data on a record carrier positioned near or in contact with one of the first and second readers and reading the encoded data; and
- d) transmitting the data processed by one of the first and second auto ID readers by the transceiver.

16. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the first auto ID reader is a bar code reader and the second auto ID reader is a smart card reader.

17. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 15, further comprising processing the data from the RF transceiver and the data from the auto ID readers in a common signal processing circuit.

19. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the data from the auto ID readers is transmitted from the signal processing circuit directly to the RF transceiver for wireless transmission to an external communications network.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) A data collection assembly comprising:
a reader operative for sensing encoded data on a record carrier and for reading the
encoded data; and
an RF transceiver operative for transmitting the data processed by said reader
derived from the record carrier, wherein the reader and the RF transceiver are
dimensioned and configured for being supported within a predetermined form factor.
22. (New) The data collection assembly of claim 21, wherein the form factor
occupies a space of approximately 1-1/2 inch x 1 inch x 3/4 inch.
23. (New) The data collection assembly of claim 21, wherein said RF
transceiver includes a first antenna, a second antenna, and a selection circuit for coupling
the RF transceiver.
24. (New) The data collection assembly of claim 21, wherein said reader
includes a plurality of contact sensors for sensing said encoded data by contacting said
record carrier.